

Wabash Plain Dealer

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 27, 2019

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Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.



Pulse
of Wabash

Plain Dealer's new website now available

Check out our new website at www.wabash-plaindealer.com and let us know what you think. Stories older than a few weeks are not yet available but will be soon. If you had an account on our previous site, you will need to create a new account. If you registered with the same email address we will be able to locate your previous subscription as well. Once registered, you can also verify your subscription. Please contact web support@wabashplaindealer.com with any questions. Thank you!

Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

Red Cross blood donation opportunity set for Dec. 27

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at Parkview Wabash Hospital, 10 John Kissinger Drive.

Laketon American Legion Post offering breakfast and lunch

The Laketon American Legion Post will be offering breakfast and lunch from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020. The Blue Bird Cafe will be closed.

BMV announces holiday hours

Branches will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1 in observance of the New Year's holiday. All branches will resume regularly scheduled business hours beginning Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020. For a complete list of branch locations and hours, to complete an online transaction, or to find a 24-hour BMV Connect kiosk near you visit IN.gov/BMV.

First Day Hike planned at Salamonie Lake

Join Upper Wabash Interpretive Services' staff for a First Day Hike at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1 at Salamonie

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Wolkins to introduce new bills

Issues include INDOT funding, teacher licenses, public notices

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

The Indiana General Assembly will convene on Monday, Jan. 6, in its non-budget, short session.

In a phone interview earlier this month, Rep. David Wolkins, R-Warsaw, said he will have several bills to introduce.

Wolkins said he has ideas related to INDOT funding, teacher licenses and public notices.

INDOT funding

In response to the commu-

nity's concerns and reservations regarding the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Indiana 24 project, INDOT announced earlier this month it would hire an independent organization to evaluate the proposed project, as well as other possible options for the intersection of County Road 300 East, stated State Sen. Andy Zay, R, Huntington.

In November, Wolkins and Zay hosted a town hall meeting to discuss the project and invited residents to

attend and offer comments.

County Road 300, otherwise known as Lago Road is used by 560 vehicles per day, while Indiana 24 is used by 9,000 vehicles per day.

Crash data provided by INDOT from 2014 to 2018 showed four injury and 11 property damage accidents at that intersection. In 2018 alone, there one property damage accident.

All the crashes were right-angle, 80 percent of which involved northbound and westbound vehicles. The

most recent fatality was in 2009. INDOT stated the intersection was "identified as a high-crash location by frequency and severity."

The cost of the J-Turn project is estimated at between \$650,000 and \$900,000. Construction will begin in spring 2020 and will have a three- to six-month duration.

INDOT estimated a roundabout would cost \$2 million to \$3.5 million and would require traffic on Indiana



WOLKINS

24 to slow to approximately 25 miles per hour. A traffic signal could cost between \$300,000 and \$500,000 including the operating cost.

Wolkins said in response to community opposition to this project he was considering having a bill drafted which would divert some state sales tax funding from INDOT to local municipalities.

"I don't know whether I'm going to introduce it yet," he said. "If they want to spend this much money where nobody wants it, let's give the money to those that do want

See WOLKINS / Page A2

Red kettle donations down



PROVIDED PHOTOS

KETTLES: This year, the Salvation Army had more than 450 red kettles in place across Indiana, including this one. Last year, these kettles raised nearly \$3.38 million in Indiana.

Salvation Army's Christmas campaign runs through Tuesday

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

The Salvation Army's iconic red kettles are feeling the impact of the short 2019 holiday season.

Donations to the annual Red Kettle Campaign were down in both Wabash County and Indiana, according to local and state officials.

Donations down in county, state

In response to a Plain Dealer request Tuesday, Deborah Lehman, Wabash Area Ministerial Association (WAMA) representative, confirmed Wabash County's donations were lower than usual.

In response to a Plain Dealer request Thursday, Samantha Hyde, director of community relations for The Salvation Army Indiana Di-

vision, stated that while they were not yet able to give final local figures yet, the same trend was seen throughout the state.

The Salvation Army had more than 450 red kettles in place across Indiana.

Last year, these kettles raised nearly \$3.38 million in Indiana and \$142.7 million nationwide.

A late Thanksgiving meant a shortened holiday shopping season. The last day of bell ringing was Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

"Many locations across Indiana are still far behind their fundraising goals," stated Hyde.

For many rural counties, the Red Kettle Campaign accounts for close to 100 percent of their annual funding.

See DONATIONS / Page A3



HISTORY: The Red Kettle Christmas Campaign has got its start in 1891, when Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee was looking for a way to address a hunger epidemic in San Francisco.

Wabash PD gives holiday safety tips

Large boxes on the curb alert thieves to the contents of your home

STAFF REPORT

The Christmas holiday leads many families to travel across the state and country to see family and friends.

The Wabash Police Department (WPD) wants to remind citizens of a few safety tips for traveling and tips to keep their home safe, according to a Capt. Matt Benson, WPD public information officer.

If you are traveling, please plan. Plan your route and notify your family what route you will be traveling on. Make sure your vehicle is ready for the trip by ensuring proper vehicle maintenance. Charge your electronic devices before your trip. In case of inclement weather check road conditions on your route. While driving please be patient and give yourself extra time to arrive at your destination. When you arrive at your destination remove all valuables from your vehicle and lock your car.

"Christmas can be a great time to spend time with family and friends. Please remember that placing large boxes at the curb for trash pickup now let's would be thieves know what you have in your home," stated Benson. "We would encourage you to take the unwanted boxes to the recycle bins. Please make sure all your doors and windows are locked when leaving your

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Young promoted to assistant VP at Manchester University

She is currently serving as senior director of auxiliary services

BY ANNE GREGORY

Effective Jan. 1, Alexis Young will become assistant vice president for facilities and auxiliary services at Manchester University.

"Alexis has demonstrated a high level of leadership on both of Manchester's campuses as well as in the Wabash County community for the past several years. Her focus on detail and a customer-centered approach are the reasons she finds herself in this position today," said Clair Knapp, chief business officer and vice president for finance. "I look forward to seeing the impact

she will have not only on the University but the entire community. This promotion is well-deserved."

Young is currently serving as senior director of auxiliary services and has had several roles at Manchester in her 14 years there.

Young began at MU in 2006 as the assistant event specialist in conference services and the academic liaison in admissions. She was appointed di-



YOUNG

rector of conference services in 2008 and stepped back in 2011 from her admissions work.

In 2017, Young was appointed senior director of auxiliary services, responsible for conference services, dining services, the campus store and printing services. Young currently oversees University-sponsored events, camps, conferences, workshops, seminars and use of University facilities. In her new role, she adds the maintenance, grounds and custodial departments to her area of supervision.

"I'm extremely honored and

excited to take on this new role," Young said. "I've been working alongside these departments for several years. I'm looking forward to building on that foundation and working closer together with the staff."

In 2016, she was the first recipient to be honored with the Christopher W. Garber Staff Member of the Year.

"One of the aspects of my conference services job that I enjoy the most is finding different ways to unite the University and the North Manchester community. Sometimes this is as simple as offering available facility space for community events,

and in other cases more complex such as planning an event for up to 2,000 local children" she said.

MU has a variety of spaces that can serve large events such as recitals, galas, weddings, athletic tournaments and other private events. "I'm proud of the care our staff puts into the maintenance of our buildings, so that the conference services staff can provide the best possible facilities for our customers," Young said.

Young has coordinated Walk Into My Future on the North Manchester campus each year since its inception in 2013.

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YOUNG

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The annual event has brought thousands of elementary school students to the school for a taste of what college is like.

“My favorite event every year is the Walk Into My Future. I love having the opportunity to host Wabash County youth on campus and the opportunity to work with educators from all over our county,” Young said. “There is so much excitement during this event from the elementary students to the University students and employees.”

Young is a native of North

Manchester and a graduate of Ball State University. She and her husband, Gary, live in North Manchester and have four children, Lincoln, Christian, Bella and Eden.

She was a board member and president of what is now Visit Wabash County, and of the North Manchester Chamber of Commerce before it became Manchester Alive; a member of the Wabash County YMCA Board of Directors; and a coordinator of the annual Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks Display hosted by MU.

“It has been a pleasure for me to be active in our community and to find ways to connect other community members

and organizations in meaningful ways with the University,” Young said. “I’m honored to currently be a part of a group organized by President Dave McFadden that helps promote collaboration and strengthen communication between the town of North Manchester and the University.”

“This opportunity is very personal for me as I spent years learning about this role from my mentor, Chris Garber. I hope to lead with some of the same excitement and passion he had for MU and the North Manchester community.”

Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.

WOLKINS

Continued from A1

it. And cities and towns ... they need more money.”

Wolkins said his proposed legislation would take the amount of state gasoline sales tax which goes to IN-DOT by a few percentage points. Though, he said he was not optimistic about its prospects.

“It’s probably not going to be real successful because that’s a major, major change, but they will at least have to address the fact and realize, hey, we’re dead serious. We want you to stop putting a J-Turn in there. If you can find some other way to make it safer, fine, go ahead. But, don’t put a J-Turn in there.”

Teacher licenses

Passed earlier this year, House Enrolled Act 1002 changed the requirements for a Professional Growth Plan (PGP) required for teachers to be able to renew their teaching licenses.

Starting July 1, educators were now required to earn 15 of their 90 points through an externship, professional development promoting career navigation, or pro-

fessional development “relating to current and future economic needs.”

“Legislation was introduced to encourage educators to connect what is being taught in the classroom to real-world experience. This legislative recommendation originated from the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet, along with 40 other recommendations, according to the Indiana Department of Education.

At the Red for Ed day Tuesday, Nov. 19, Wolkins said he heard from many teachers who did not like this new requirement.

“Boy they got really perturbed about that. And I’m still not sure why,” he said.

Wolkins said he was persuaded by elementary school teachers who felt the requirement was unnecessary.

“You don’t need to be teaching your first-, second- and third-graders about what jobs are available out there. That makes sense,” he said.

Wolkins said he had asked for a bill to be filed to change that to secondary school educators only.

“I think that is an important part and they ought to be aware of what’s in their community,” he said.

Public notices

In April, Sen. Phil Boots, R-Crawfordsville, announced during a conference committee hearing for his Senate Bill 535, that the \$250 cap on public notice advertising for state and local government units would be removed from the bill, according to Steve Key, Hoosier State Press Association (HSPA) executive director.

The cap was inserted into Sen. Boots’ bill about limits on extraterritorial powers of cities and towns, during its hearing before the House Select Committee on Government Reduction, chaired by Rep. Doug Gutwein, R-Francesville.

The cap was offered as an amendment by Wolkins. The bill’s sponsor, Rep. Steve Davissin, R-Salem, did not oppose the move. Sen. Boots said the language had been determined to be non-germane to his bill by Senate Republican attorneys.

Wolkins said he plans to reintroduce this language, but change the cap from \$250 to \$300.

“Not a good thing as far as newspapers are concerned but everything’s going internet-wise and we think it’s time to do that,” he said.

PULSE

Continued from A1

Lake at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Meet at the interpretive center for a one-hour stroll through the woods along the moderate Tree Trail. Dress for the weather. Families and friendly dogs on leashes welcome. Advance registration is requested by calling 260-468-2127.

Honeywell Foundation's Annual Winter Bash draws near

The Annual Winter Break Bash, hosted by the Honeywell Foundation, will take place Thursday, Jan. 2 and Friday, Jan. 3 at various Honeywell Foundation venues including the Honeywell Center and Charley Creek Gardens. For more information about Winter Bash, visit the Honeywell Center website at www.honeywell-center.org or call the Box Office at 260-563-1102.

January Salamonie Senior Luncheon set

The monthly Salamonie Senior Luncheon will be held at noon Monday, Jan. 6, 2020 at the Salamonie Lake Interpretive Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Anyone age 50 or older is welcome to attend. The program begins with a carry-in meal at noon. Potato soup will be provided. Guests should bring a side dish to share, a beverage and their table service. A \$1 donation will be accepted. Reservations may be made by calling 260-468-2127.

Red Cross schedules blood drive opportunity for Jan. 7, 2020

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood drive opportunity from 2 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020 at the Wabash County YMCA, 500 S. Cass St.

Artists sought for Honeywell Foundation's art competition

The Honeywell Foundation’s Clark Gallery will be hosting its annual 92 County Art Show from

Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020 through Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020. Entries will be accepted from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6. For complete guidelines visit www.honeywellcenter.org/92-county-art-show. A public reception for this event will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020. For more information, contact Michele Hughes at mhughes@HoneywellFoundation.org or call the Honeywell Center Box Office at 260-563-1102.

Low Impact Fitness classes scheduled

Fitness that is both fun and free led by Mary Jo McClelland at 9:45 a.m. every Monday and Thursday, and 3 p.m. Wednesdays at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. There is no fee or registration required.

Cancer care advocate available every Tuesday

A cancer care advocate is available from 1 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Winchester Senior Center, 239 Bond St. No appointment is needed. This service is supported by the Hope Foundation and provided by Cancer Services out of Fort Wayne.

Komets game to celebrate Wabash County March 13

Wabash County will be the MVP during the third annual Wabash County Night at the Fort Wayne Komets game at 8:05 p.m. Friday, March 13, 2020 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave., Fort

Wayne. While supplies last, tickets can be bought for \$15 per ticket at <https://groupmatics.events/event/Wabashcommunity3> or by emailing Mitch Meinholtz at mitch@komets.com or by calling 260-482-6812.

Yoga classes scheduled on Tuesdays

Yoga for those who are intermediate to experienced levels have been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. The cost is \$10, and discount passes are available.

Wabash Kiwanis Club's Pancake Day returns in March

The Wabash Kiwanis Club will once again host its annual Pancake Day, which is the local service organization’s largest annual fundraiser.

The event will take place from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at the Bruce Ingraham building at the Wabash County Fairgrounds, located just off of Gillen Avenue. Tickets will be \$8 at the door and \$7 in advance for those ages 13 years and older, and \$5 at the door and \$4 in advance for children ages 6 to 12 years. Admission for the event will be free for children 5 years and younger.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

Roxy 5 Showtimes for Friday, December 27- Thursday, January 2
All showtimes have Closed Captioning available.

Star Wars: Episode IX- The Rise of Skywalker in 2D (PG13) Fri-Sat: 12:25, 3:25, 6:10, 6:50, 9:10, 9:55 Sun- Thurs: 12:25, 3:25, 6:10, 6:50	Spies in Disguise (PG) Fri-Sat: 12:45, 3:45, 6:40, 9:30 Sun- Thurs: 12:45, 3:45, 6:40
Little Women (PG) Fri-Sat: 12:35, 3:35, 6:30, 9:40 Sun- Thurs: 12:35, 3:35, 6:30	Jumanji: The Next Level in 2D (PG13) Fri-Sat: 1:10, 4:05, 7:05 10:05 Sun- Thurs: 1:10, 4:05, 7:05
Frozen II in 2D (PG) Fri- Thurs: 12:55, 3:55	

For more information please call
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5-Day Weather Summary

Friday Mostly Cloudy 46 / 35	Saturday Scattered Rain 58 / 48	Sunday Rain Likely 56 / 31	Monday Cloudy 36 / 26	Tuesday Mostly Cloudy 33 / 25

Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 5:27 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 8:11 a.m.

First 1/2	Full 1/10	Last 1/17	New 1/24

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 46°, humidity of 71%. West northwest wind 3 to 9 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a slight chance of rain, overnight low of 35°. East northeast wind 2 to 8 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 29°.

Special flu shot for older people has more antigen

DEAR DOCTOR: Our 76-year-old mom is nervous about getting the special Flu-zone shot for older people because a neighbor told her it will make her sick. Is that true? What makes flu shots so important?

Elizabeth Ko & Eve Glazier
Ask the Doctors



D E A R READER: Influenza, commonly referred to as the flu, is a seasonal respiratory illness with symptoms similar to those of the common cold. Both illnesses are caused by viruses, but infection with the influenza virus usually results in symptoms that are more severe and longer-lasting than those of a cold. Unlike a cold, which typically comes on gradually, the onset of the flu is often swift. People who get the flu can experience fever, chills, sore throat, cough, lung congestion, body aches and pains, a stuffy and runny nose, and fatigue or exhaustion. Nausea and diarrhea are possible.

Flu season in the United States is concentrated in the fall and winter. Peak activity occurs between December and February. Symptoms show up from one to four days following infection. Depending on the flu strain, as well as the general health of the individual, it can take up to two weeks for the disease to run its course. Most people recover completely. However, at-risk populations with weaker immune systems, such as the elderly, are at increased risk of complications. These can be moderate, such as sinus and ear infections. Severe complications include pneumonia and, more rarely, myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle, or encephalitis, a brain inflammation. In cases where the presence of the influenza virus triggers an extreme inflammatory response, it’s possible for the patient to develop sepsis, a life-threatening infection.

The special flu shot you refer to is called Fluzone High-Dose, a vaccine that

contains four times as much antigen as the standard dose. Antigen is the part of the vaccine that causes the body to build up immunity. As we age, our immune response to influenza vaccines declines. The intent of the quadruple dose of influenza antigen is to make up for that reduction in clinical effectiveness. Recent studies have found the high-dose vaccine to be 25 percent more effective at preventing infection in the elderly. It is also associated with a lower rate of hospitalizations among those who do get the flu. However, it’s also true that side effects to the high-dose vaccine are slightly more frequent than to the standard-dose version.

People getting either type of vaccine may experience side effects including pain, swelling and redness

at the injection site, as well as headache, fever, muscle aches and tiredness. Each of these are reported to be mild and temporary, lasting less than a day or two.

Whether your mother overcomes her fear of the high-dose vaccine or opts for the standard-dose variety, we think that the most important thing is for her to get a flu vaccine, no matter which kind, as soon as possible. You should get one, too. In fact, all of our readers should get the flu shot.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations, 10880 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450, Los Angeles, CA, 90024. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.



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www.grandstaff-hentgen.com

Richard Lee ‘Dick’ Kramer
May 17, 1934 - Dec. 26, 2019

Richard Lee “Dick” Kramer, 85, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 5:32 am, Thursday, Dec. 26, 2019 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. He was born May 17, 1934 in Wabash, to LeRoy and Mildred (Long) Kramer.

Dick was a 1952 graduate of Wabash High School. He married Joan Williams at the Wabash Street Methodist Church on May 28, 1955. He was a longtime employee at Wabash Magnetics, sold cars for several years, and also worked 15 years at True Value in Wabash. Dick enjoyed going to his grandkids sporting events, mowing the yard, and being outdoors.

He is survived by his wife, Joan Kramer of Wabash, 4 children, Jeff (Mary) Kramer of Wabash, Jenny Hoover of Newburgh, Indiana, Jody (Rollin) McCoart of Wabash, and Jon (Susan) Kramer of Huntington, Indiana, 9 grandchildren, Chad McCoart of Wabash, Andrea (Brad) Kaufman of Oreana, Illinois, Megan (Chris) Pappas of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Katherine (Ryan) Wagoner of Erie, Indiana, Doug (Brittany) Kramer of Muncie, Indiana, Christopher (Allie) Kramer of Fort Wayne, Matthew Kramer



of Huntington, Alexandra (Frank) Roche of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Dane Hoover of Newburgh, and 6 great-grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by his parents, infant son, Richard Kent Kramer, his infant brother Jack Kramer, and his great granddaughter Edie Wagoner.

Family will receive friends from 1 – 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, 2019, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Ave. Wabash. There will be no funeral ceremony

Preferred memorial is Riley Children’s Hospital.

The memorial guest book for Dick may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

State sets new sulfur dioxide limit for Indiana Harbor Coke

EAST CHICAGO (AP) — Indiana regulators have set proposed new pollution limits for a northwestern Indiana business that’s considered one of the region’s worst polluters.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management is proposing a tougher sulfur dioxide emissions limit for Indiana Harbor Coke Co. The East Chicago plant supplies ArcelorMittal’s Indiana Harbor steel mill with the coke its blast furnaces burn to make pig iron.

Indiana Harbor Coke and its

parent company, Cokerenergy, reached a consent decree with state and federal governments last year under which they agreed to pay a \$5 million fine, clean up lead contamination in East Chicago and curb air pollution, The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported.

IDEM’s proposed rule includes requiring Indiana Harbor Coke Co. to vent no more than 19% of its coke oven waste gases into the atmosphere on any given day. A public hearing on the proposed rule will be held Jan. 8.

SAFETY

Continued from A1

home.”

Many times presents include expensive electronics and tools. Please take a few minutes to record make, model, and serial numbers for these items.

“In the unfortunate event that these items are lost or stolen it makes identification and recovery much easier for you and the police,” stated Benson.

As always, buckle up and drive sober.

“The WPD wish everyone safe travels throughout this holiday season,” stated Benson.

DONATIONS

Continued from A1

In response to a Plain Dealer request last month, Mary Ellen Clark, WAMA representative, stated they raised around \$15,000 in 2017 and \$13,000 in 2018.

Still time to give

Hyde stated that while the kettles are all put away for the season, donors can still help The Salvation Army of Wabash County make its fundraising goal by donating online.

“The annual Christmas Campaign goes through the end of the year, so there is still plenty of time to make your year-end gift,” stated Hyde.

Hyde stated those who want to give may do so by visiting www.SalvationArmyIndiana.org or www.centralusa.salvationarmy.org/indiana/ways-to-give/.

Checks written out to The Salvation Army of Wabash County can also be mailed directly to The Salvation Army’s Divisional Head-

History of the campaign

The Red Kettle Christmas Campaign has got its start in 1891, when Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee was looking for a way to address a hunger epidemic in San Francisco, stated Hyde.

“His solution was to collect donations in a large soup kettle placed at Oakland Ferry Landing, eventually raising enough to give Christmas dinner to 1,000 of the city’s poorest residents. The idea caught on, and within a decade the kettles, which would eventually be painted red, could be found across the country,” she stated.

States are on front lines of 2020 election-security

BY CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Va. — Inside a hotel ballroom near the nation’s capital, a U.S. Army officer with battlefield experience told 120 state and local election officials that they may have more in common with military strategists than they might think.

These government officials are on the front lines of a different kind of battlefield – one in which they are helping to defend American democracy by ensuring free and fair elections.

“Everyone in this room is part of a bigger effort, and it’s only together are we going to get through this,” the officer said.

That officer and other past and present national security leaders had a message to convey to officials from 24 states gathered for a recent training held by a Harvard-affiliated democracy project: They are the linchpins in efforts to defend U.S. elections from an attack by Russia, China or other foreign threats, and developing a military mindset will help them protect the integrity of the vote.

The need for such training reflects how elections security worries have heightened in the aftermath of the 2016 election, when Russian military agents targeted voting systems across the country as part of a multi-pronged effort to influence the presidential election. Until then, the job of local election officials could had been described as akin to a wedding planner who keeps track of who will be showing up on Election Day and ensures all the equipment and supplies are in place.

Now, these officials are on the front lines. The federal government will be on

high alert, gathering intelligence and scanning systems for suspicious cyber activity as they look to defend the nation’s elections. Meanwhile, it will be the state and county officials who will be on the ground charged with identifying and dealing with any hostile acts.

“It’s another level of war,” said Jesse Salinas, the chief elections official in Yolo County, California, who attended the training. “You only attack things that you feel are a threat to you, and our democracy is a threat to a lot of these nation-states that are getting involved trying to undermine it. We have to fight back, and we have to prepare.”

Salinas brought four of his employees with him to the training, which was part of the Defending Digital Democracy Project based at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School. The group has been working actively with former and current military, national security, political and communications experts – many of whom dedicate their time after work and on weekends – to develop training and manuals for state and local election officials. Those involved with leading the training asked for anonymity because of their sensitive positions.

The project’s latest play-book focuses on bringing military best practices to running Election Day operations, encouraging state and local election officials to adopt a “battle staff” command structure with clear responsibilities and standard operating procedures for dealing with minor issues. The project is also providing officials with a free state-of-the-art incident tracking system.

Eric Rosenbach, co-director of the Belfer Center and a former U.S. Army intelligence officer who served as chief of staff to Defense Secretary Ash Carter in the Obama administration, told the group gathered for the training that it “shouldn’t be lost on you that this is a very military-like model.”

“Let’s be honest about it,” Rosenbach said. “If democracy is under attack and you guys are the ones at the pointy end of the spear, why shouldn’t we train that way? Why shouldn’t we try to give you the help that comes with that model and try to build you up and do all we can?”

Instructors stressed the need for election officials to be on the lookout for efforts to disrupt the vote and ensure that communications are flowing up from counties to the state, down from states to the counties, as well as up and down to the federal government and across states.

Piecing together seemingly disparate actions happening in real-time across geographical locations will allow the nation to defend itself, said Robby Mook, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton’s campaign manager in 2016. Mook founded the Defending Digital Democracy Project with Rosenbach and Matt Rhoades, Republican nominee Mitt Romney’s 2012 campaign manager.

“Find a way to input data in a consistent, efficient and reliable way to ensure you know what is going on and prevent things from falling through the cracks,” Mook told the election officials. “You got to rise above just putting out fires.”

At the training were officials from California, Colorado, Georgia, North

Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, West Virginia and other states. In one exercise, election officials were paired up as either a state or county under an Election Day scenario, charged with logging incidents and trying to piece together what turned out to be four different coordinated campaigns to disrupt voting.

“One of the big take-aways was just how the lack of one piece of information moving up from the counties to the state or moving from the states to counties, if either of those things don’t happen, it can have a significant impact,” said Stephen Trout, elections director for Oregon.

Trout said he would move quickly to acquire, customize and implement the incident tracking system, which would be an upgrade from the paper process currently in use. Dave Tackett, chief information officer for the West Virginia Secretary of State’s Office, said he will recommend some structuring changes at his state operations center, including bringing key personnel into the room and incorporating elements of the incident tracking system like mapping and the ability to assign people to specific incidents.

“Events like today are helping us zero in on how to structure ourselves better, how to really think in a different mindset so that we can carry out all the different tasks that have to be done with elections,” said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the North Carolina Board of Elections. “(It’s) the importance of communications, the importance of having standard operating procedures in place so all the i’s are dotted and the t’s crossed ahead of time and you are prepared for the unknown.”

Indiana Dunes National Park eyes erosion-fighting sand traps

BEVERLY SHORES (AP) — The National Park Service and a northwestern Indiana town will install sand traps along the Lake Michigan shoreline to combat beach erosion at the Indiana Dunes National Park.

The federal agency was scheduled to begin working Friday with the town of Beverly Shores to fill 300 linear feet of sand

traps. Those traps will be installed along the beach and above the high-water mark at the Indiana Dunes National Park’s Lake View parking area and Lake Front Drive.

Officials are asking the public to steer clear of the area as heavy equipment is used to install and fill the sand traps and fight erosion during a time of high water levels on the lake,

The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported.

“Without intervention, the parking lot, road and the public utilities buried near them could be damaged or destroyed by future storm waves,” the Indiana Dunes National Park said in a news release.

The park has 15 miles of shoreline. Lake Michigan’s water level remains “well above the long-term

average,” the park said.

Officials declared an emergency and issued travel restrictions in the Beverly Shores area last week as the town and parks service worked to address the worsening erosion situation along the lake.

In February, the 15,000-acre park along the southern shore of Lake Michigan became Indiana’s first national park.

Ski resort closes slopes amid warm spell

PAOLI (AP) — A southern Indiana ski resort has temporarily closed its slopes amid unseasonably warm weather that’s melting its artificial snowpack.

Paoli Peaks said Wednesday in a tweet that it was closing its slopes

and tubing park beginning Thursday until cold air returns and “we have the opportunity to make additional snow.”

The resort is located roughly 50 miles northwest of Louisville, Kentucky, which recorded

a record high of 69 degrees on Wednesday amid the region’s early winter warm spell, WDRB-TV reported.

Paoli Peaks has long used machines to mix water and compressed air to make artificial snow to supple-

ment natural snowfall. But the temperature must be at 30 degrees or lower for the process to work.

Paoli Peaks typically offers skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing each year from mid-December to mid-March.

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speak up

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http://coats.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
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202-224-4814
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U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski R-District 2
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letters guidelines

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 123 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

inspiration corner

Daily scripture

Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

Mark 13:11

Democrats can be progressive and practical

At Thursday's Democratic presidential debate, distinctions among the candidates were rooted in different theories of change. The party's left flank argued that Americans will move in its direction if provided with unapologetic leadership. The relative moderates in the race hewed more closely to where Americans actually are. One path enhances the likelihood of President Donald Trump's reelection, with all of the damage that implies. The other could lead to responsible government.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts defended her plan to impose the largest tax increase since World War II, Medicare-for-all, free college for all and other massive social programs, arguing that only Washington corruption stands in the way. "Attack the corruption head-on," she urged, and then Congress will act.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., said Democrats should not aim to reach out to the center but to attract "the largest voter turnout in the history of America." He explained: "You don't have the largest voter turnout unless you create energy and excitement." Naturally, he said his specific democratic socialist agenda would create that energy.

But one can object to Warren's program without being corrupt, and one can look at opinion poll-

ing to see that Sanders' agenda would scare many Americans, even as it excites some. Their agendas probably would fail at the polls and, if not, would carry extreme risks if they tried to implement them.

By contrast, South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg implored Democrats to "be smart about the promises we're making, make sure they're promises that we can keep without the kind of taxation that economists tell us could hurt the economy." He deplored the "mindset that measures the bigness of an idea by how many trillions of dollars it adds to the budget or the boldness of an idea by how many fellow Americans it can antagonize."

Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota said Democrats should stick to the strategy that has proved effective election after election: building a coalition of "moderate Republicans and independents, as well as a fired-up Democratic base," as she did in her Midwestern home state. This does not mean one must sell out one's principles, she argued, in part because there are many ways to achieve, say, universal health care or college access: "You can be progressive and practical at the same time," she said.

Democrats must get this right

because, as former Vice President Joe Biden argued, there can be - in U.S.-style democracy, there must be - cooperation amid legitimate disagreement. "I refuse to accept the notion, as some on this stage do, that we can never, never get to a place where we have cooperation again. If that's the case, we're dead as a country." Democrats can be clear-eyed about the current state of the Republican Party without cheering for further descent into partisanship and polarization.

A "healthy American majority exists for common-sense positions that are also progressive positions," Buttigieg said to us in a recent interview. "Whether it's on climate, whether it's on health, on wages, even issues where my party has been on defense, like immigration or guns. . . . The job of a nominee, and certainly the job of the president, is to galvanize and not polarize that majority."

In a diverse democracy, the alternative to unifying and coalition-building is almost never winning a grand, definitive victory that changes everything - a "political revolution." It is gridlock and failure. Some Democratic candidates are offering a more positive future.

This editorial was first published in The Washington Post.



Still caught in the health care thicket

As this shabby year, and with it a dispiriting decade, sags to an end, there is an interesting symmetry. In 2010, passage of the Affordable

George Will



Care Act signaled the nation's domestic policy preoccupation: health care. Ten years later, this issue is defining the political competition that will produce the first presidency of this century's third decade.

Barack Obama's two largest achievements during his presidency's 70 percent of the second decade altered the public's thinking and the government's functioning. When he entered office there was only a moderate consensus, but when he left it was decisive, that everyone should have health care coverage and that this should not be denied because of preexisting health conditions.

Obama's largest impact on governance was the expansion of Medicaid under the ACA. This has addicted 36 - so far - state legislatures and the District of Columbia on a large flow of federal funds. Those 37 jurisdictions, with 66 percent of the nation's population (and soon perhaps Oklahoma and Missouri, both of which may have a ballot measure on expansion in 2020), are especially, and irrevocably, enmeshed in ever-deepening government supervision of health care. The American economy's health care sector is larger than all but three nations' entire economies, and as this decade ends, so does the sterile debate framed as a binary choice between government or private provision of health care. This is a blurred distinction without a clear difference.

Beginning in 2010, the Repub-

lican Party's defining - its only important - domestic policy was to "repeal and replace" the ACA. Now it is clear, probably even to the declining number of Republicans who continue to substitute that chant for thought, that this will not happen. Regarding health care, the party's intellectual pantry is now almost empty. Louisiana Sen. Bill Cassidy and a few others are working on restocking it. Perhaps they can dilute the party's current dreadful purity as a cult of personality.

In 2019, the Democratic presidential candidates' debates about health care have perhaps presaged a healthier party in 2020. The beginning of T.S. Eliot's "East Coker" - "In my beginning is my end" - could be Kamala Harris' campaign's autopsy. Five months before she had the kamikaze courage to embrace the most futile and despised social policy of the last third of the previous century - compulsory busing of school children away from their neighborhood schools, in pursuit of racial "balance" - Harris did something even less explicable. Seven days after her campaign began, with a flippancy that proclaimed her unfamiliarity with health care's complexities, she essentially said: Come to think about it, or actually without really thinking about it, "let's move on" from private health insurance. Has any presidential campaign begun by alarming more people?

Elizabeth Warren's presidential prospects may have passed their apogee on Nov. 1, when she explained, or purported to explain, how she would pay for her "Medicare for All." Various analysts of different philosophic persuasions came to the same conclusion: She fell \$10 trillion or so short of the real one-decade cost of her single-payer plan. In 2016, Hill-

ary Clinton said a single-payer plan would "never, ever come to pass." Warren's only concession to reality has been to promise to not implement her plan until three years after she has fulfilled her recent promise - she cannot moderate her aggressions against those who disagree with her - to wear a Planned Parenthood scarf at her inauguration.

In 2016, Donald Trump lost the popular vote by 2,833,224, which was 521,366 more than the combined margins of victory of John Kennedy in 1960 (118,574), Richard Nixon in 1968 (510,314) and Jimmy Carter in 1976 (1,682,970). But in 2020, as in 2016, Trump's political strategy will be to reach Election Day as only the second-most unpopular politician in the country. If he succeeds, he might owe his tattered success to the other party's combination of ignorance and arrogance regarding health care.

In 1993, as President Bill Clinton's administration arrived jauntily promising a root-and-branch remaking of a health care sector less complex than today's, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., was warning: "Ideological certainty easily degenerates into an insistence upon ignorance. The great strength of political conservatives at this time (and for a generation) is that they are open to the thought that matters are complex. Liberals have got into a reflexive pattern of denying this."

Such denial breeds political recklessness in the deniers, dismay among voters and despair among people who know things. Next year, with the most complex domestic problem - health care - uppermost in many voters' minds, denial might produce a president's reelection.

George Will's email address is georgewill@washpost.com.

letters to the editor

An opportunity missed

Because the negative health effects of secondhand smoke exposure are well documented, one of the most important steps a community can take to improve the health of its residents is to create more smoke-free places.

We are disappointed that our community leaders missed an opportunity to make Wabash a healthier place to live, work and play.

Smoke-free communities are the new normal and Wabash would be in good company joining cities across the state of Indiana and the country that have taken the important step towards protecting all residents and visitors from toxic secondhand smoke.

We need to remember that more than 80 percent of the population in Wabash/Wabash County are smoke-free.

Daniel Gray
Director, Wabash County
Tobacco Free Coalition

On Russian and Chinese missile threats

President Trump is correct in withdrawing from the intermediate-range missile treaty with Russia enacted 30 years ago, because Russia broke the treaty with its missile development.

Another problem with the treaty was it did not prevent non-treaty countries from developing intermediate-range missiles; and China has developed and deployed intermediate-range missiles. The Chinese missiles can outperform our defensive systems that protect Japan, Taiwan and South Korea.

As a former Navy enlisted and officer - Penn State 1963, NROTC - I am concerned with the Chinese missiles designed to thwart the capabilities of our aircraft carriers, because the anti-ship missiles can be launched beyond the range of our carrier-based aircraft. This places us at a disadvantage countering Chinese threats in the Far East.

Previous U.S. administrations were negligent when they supported the treaty. Now we are initiating a huge effort to rebuild our intermediate missile forces.

Note: In July 2019, the United States and Israel carried out successful tests of the Israeli Arrow-3 ballistic missile defense system at a base in Alaska. Ostensibly, the test was conducted by Israel in Alaska due to space considerations in Israel.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry, New Hampshire

The \$100,000 council seat: It's coming to your town

BY CRAIG LADWIG

Why would anyone spend an estimated \$100,000 to win a district council election, especially when the incumbent was heavily outvoted at the council table?

Yes, that's a district council race in a midsized Indiana city, and that \$100,000 is said to be a state record.

Clearly, it was important to keep the incumbent from using his office to ask questions and raise issues. Someone's special interest was so untenable it could not bear even the isolated attention of a single elected official. And just as obviously, that special interest represented a large amount of money - enough to attract bad company, it will be argued here.

Prima facie, folks, this is corruption, perhaps not personal corruption but surely institutional corruption. This particular city council was being used to capture what economists call "rents," money made by manipulating the political environment rather than by creating new wealth. It is the fancy second cousin to skimming from the cash register, fixing contracts, arranging kickbacks, etc.

Will there be other examples around the state? The role of council has been distorted in a way that makes it inevitable. The regional economic-development policies continued by Gov. Eric Holcomb have turned city councilmen into investment bankers, picking winners and losers and arranging all manner of loan and bond guarantee as well as preferential tax treatment.

And they aren't good at it, particularly in regard to assessing the degree of risk to future taxpayers or the actual "investment" of those playing the system. It's why the Indiana Policy Review Foundation has launched its "Footholds" project. Granted, it is possible that some of that \$100,000 came from economic innocents, both big and small donors, who were pulled in with an appeal to city pride - "We've got to save the downtown, the old mill, the iconic factory, the river walk. . . ."

The return in these cases, the payoff, is a sense of civic contribution, however shallow the understanding of the financial arrangements being made by the insiders.

Whatever, the typical councilman, the kind who likes to hear himself called "councilman," won't be casting any votes that come with \$100,000 campaign challenges.

This, please know, is how political machines are built and maintained. And inattentive public officials, by commission or omission, are the stooges, the menaces to a city's future. Vote them out of office if you want honest local government and representative elections.

Craig Ladwig is editor of the quarterly Indiana Policy Review.

CHURCH NEWS

Asbury Country Church

On Sunday, Dec. 29 at Asbury Country Church the Sunday school is 9:30 a.m., and the worship service is at 10:30 a.m. The worship leader will be Amy Bullick. The music leader will be Roger Marine. The piano will be played by Cathy Staggs. The morning message by Pastor Mike Bullick will be, "What Gift?"

First Church of God
On Sunday, Dec. 29, at the First Church of God, 525 N. Miami St., at the 10:30 a.m. worship service, Pastor Robb Rensberger's sermon is titled, "Persons of Peace." Sunday servants are Todd Eltzroth, chairperson; Chris Sands, worship; Rose Sands and Nancy Kolb, special music; Nancy Kolb, piano; and Rose

Sands, organ.

Roann United Methodist Church

On Sunday, Dec. 29 at Roann United Methodist Church, the church service will be at 9 a.m. and Sunday school will be at 10:15 a.m. The greeters will be Harlow and Alice Stephenson. The

worship leader will be Doug Bogert. Pastor Wayne Balm-er's sermon will be from Mat-thew 2:1-12 titled, "We Still Need Jesus." We will also be celebrating December birth-days.

Walk By Faith Community Church

At the Sunday, Dec. 29

service at the Walk by Faith Community Church in Roann, Sunday school will be at 9 a.m., and the worship and chil-dren's worship will be at 10 a.m. The pastor is Greg Wil-burn. The youth pastor is Jody Tyner. Our greeters for this Sunday will be Dwight and Jennifer Wagoner and Mary Fultz. Pastor Greg Wilburn will be sharing the message

with us. Visit our website at www.walkbyfaithcommunitychurch.com.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Micro-soft Word or PDF file formats.

We must not look away

Impeachment is on the brain, and it would seem to the exclusion of everything else. But we had better make room for the Iraqi people. At the start of the month, Chal-dean arch-bishop Bashar Warda of Erbil visited New York and spoke at the United Nations Security Council about the situation in his native Iraq. Warda

Kathryn Lopez



has been housing and caring for people, primarily Chris-tians, who fled ISIS in Mosul in 2014. He's been working to secure some semblance of a future for them, including by establishing a Catholic university in his native coun-try.

In his speech on Dec. 3, he said: "At stake is whether Iraq will finally emerge from the trauma of Saddam and the past 16 years to become a legitimate, independent and functioning country, or whether it will become a permanently lawless region, open to proxy wars between other countries and move-ments, and a servant to the sectarian demands of those outside Iraq."

Warda was hopeful: "If the protest movement is suc-cessful in creating a new government, with a new, civil constitution, respecting the diversity of its religions and cultures, one not based in Sharia but instead based upon the fundamental con-cepts of freedom for all, free-doms enshrined in the Uni-versal Declaration of Human Rights written by this organi-zation where we all sit today, then a time of hope can still exist for the long-suffering Iraqi people. Despite every-thing, the Iraqi people love their country, and they want it back."

And the archbishop was also sober. He said that if the protesters were not suc-

cessful -- "if the international community stands by and allows the murder of inno-cents to continue" -- Iraq will probably fall into civil war, scattering millions of young religious minorities. "In the crisis and the genocide of 2014, over 4 million Iraqis, Muslims, Yazidis and Chris-tians fled to the Kurdistan region seeking refuge from the evil of ISIS, but still re-mained within the country," Warda said. "In another ma-jor conflict, we are likely to see the people flee from Iraq for good. We are indeed at perhaps the last chance for our country."

His speech was a plea to the international community and especially to the West for support. It was an entreaty not to look away, but also not to recklessly intervene, as the United States has done in the past. Warda will tell you that Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq are not bet-ter off because of the fall of Saddam Hussein, evil tyrant though he may have been. Warda is no apologist for Hussein, he simply explains how things have played out. And the archbishop doesn't explicitly ask the West to do penance, and yet, that doesn't seem like it would be inap-propriate.

Serious attention to his as-sessment, at the very least, is overdue.

I'm told that on account of his words at the United Na-tions, protesters have been seen with Archbishop War-da's photograph on signs in Baghdad's Tahrir Square.

When I had a long inter-view with Archbishop Warda in Toronto in 2016, he talked a little bit about the effect of U.S. interventions in Iraq. He was mad. Invading, he said, "was a big mistake," "but it was a tragedy when (U.S. troops) left."

Warda stresses the impor-tance of protecting religious freedom, but also how ur-gent it is to have Christians in Iraq and the wider region.

First of all, they belong there -- they have been there since about the start of Christianity. That's only right and just, but also: They bring an example to the region that is abso-lutely needed. Christians at their best embody the mercy of Jesus from the Gospels -- who allowed himself to be crucified out of love, an un-precedented act of hope that changed the course of history and human lives. It is good to have people of hope among you, wherever you are, but it's especially necessary in the war-torn Middle East.

The Washington Post just ran an alarming series about our last 18 years of armed intervention in Afghanistan. We've made things worse in that country, and that's just the beginning of the story. The news should, among other things, make us take Warda's words extra serious-ly. We must consider what we've done and stop looking away from the consequences of our policies and the hopes of the people whose lives we've so greatly affected.

About the ongoing protests in Iraq, Warda says: "The young Christians of Iraq have been participants in these protests every day. They have been there because the pro-tests have given them hope for a future, a future in which they belong as equal and con-tributing Iraqi citizens."

Warda points out that though over 400 protesters have been killed, the protest-ers remain nonviolent. About their goals and the urgency of their cause, he added: "Along with the millions of other marginalized Iraqis, they look now to the international community for your action and support. ... We believe we have a future, and we ask you not to turn away from us now." That should reso-nate with us. The protesters' cause is just, and we have a responsibility to support them. Whatever is going on domestically, let's not look away. It's our responsibility.

Pondering the work of Mr. Rogers

During a dozen years of ministry, the Rev. Ted Giese estimates that he has per-formed 200 funerals and made 1,000 hospital visits to the sick and the dying. He also spends

Terry Mattingly



many hours in theaters, working on his movie reviews featured at The Canadian Lu-theran website. Thus, Giese knew exactly what was hap-pening in a crucial scene

in "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood." In it, PBS legend Fred Rogers -- played by Tom Hanks -- arrives with a pie for the family of a dying father who has been struggling to heal a bitter rift with his journalist son.

Leaning over the deathbed, Mister Rogers whispers into the man's ear. Moments later, the son asks what he said and Rogers replies: "I asked him to pray for me. Anyone who's going through what he's going through must be very close to God."

Anyone who has served as a pastor, said Giese, will im-mediately recognize what hap-pened in this encounter.

"That was a pastoral call," he said. "I don't usually bring an apple pie with me when I make this kind of visit, but I know what that scene is all about. I know what that feels like as a pastor. It's like you're part of the family, but you are also there to provide the kind of care that people count on pastors to provide."

This scene may have seemed strange for many moviegoers. The film makes it clear that Rogers is a deeply spiritual, even saintly man. He reads scripture and begins his day on his knees, praying -- by name -- for people he has met while doing his work.

But here's the strange part. This movie never mentions that Mister Rogers was also the Rev. Fred Rogers, an or-dained Presbyterian minister.

It never notes that Rogers went to seminary seeking the theo-logical depth that he believed he needed to address tough issues -- life, death, disease, divorce, war, poverty, racism, loneliness -- in child-friendly words and images.

For Rogers, "neighbor" was not a random word that, for 33 years, he inserted into tele-vision scripts. He was, show after show, making a personal statement that affirmed a kind of love demonstrated in the biblical parable of the Good Samaritan and its haunting question, "Who is my neigh-bor?"

"I don't know why the film-makers decided to leave out the fact that Fred Rogers was ordained," said Giese, who leads Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Regina, Saskatch-ewan, north of Canada's bor-der with Montana. "Maybe they thought it was safer not to, that Christians would sim-ply assume that -- based on the context -- while other people in the audience could see a vaguely spiritual faith at work and leave it at that."

The question that pastors need to ask, he said, is why the story of Mister Rogers contin-ues to resonate with so many people, especially in a time when public discourse -- news, politics and entertainment -- has become so nasty, negative, coarse and cruel.

The script for "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" was based on a true story about a journalist writing an Esquire profile of Rogers. An editor re-quested a short piece about an American hero. This evolved into a lengthy feature driven by this question: Is Mister Rogers a living saint?

It was impossible to avoid the role of faith in this drama. In the actual 1998 Esquire profile of Rogers, by journal-ist Tom Junod, there are 31 references to prayer. The piece ends with Rogers and another minister asking the journalist to join them in prayer, a mo-ment that led Junod to confess that his wounded heart "felt like a spike, and then, in that room, it opened and felt like an umbrella."

That scene isn't in the movie, either.

Nevertheless, said Giese, this "performance by Tom Hanks is so sanctified. That quality is soaked into almost every mo-ment on the screen. This ends up being an anti-narcissism movie, a story about a TV star who was an anti-diva. ...

"In most pop culture, when you try to capture that kind of spiritual quality, it rings hollow. But that isn't what happens in this case. I really think people will leave theaters thinking, 'I wish that I could be more like him.' People need to ask, 'Why is that?'"

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Church Directory

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Gospel Light Assembly of God, 347 Southwood Drive. Pastor Neil Jeffrey. Sunday School 9:45am (all ages). Morning worship service 10:30am. Evening service 6pm. Wednesday midweek service 7pm; Kids' Korral Wednesday 7pm. Youth meeting 7pm (ages 12-19).

Sweetwater Assembly of God, 2551 SR 114 E, North Manchester. (260) 982-6179. Sunday worship 9am & 10:45am. Sunday evening outreach groups & youth ministry 5-7pm. Wednesday 6:30pm adult/teen bible study, 6:30pm Kidz Zone (K thru 6th grade).

BAPTIST

Emmanuel Free Will Baptist, 129 Southwood Drive. Pastor Terry Hinds. (260) 563-3009. Sunday School 9:30am. Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm; Children's Church 10:30am. Wednesday morning prayer service 11am. Wednesday Prayer meeting 6pm. Transportation available.

Southside Free Will Baptist, 360 Columbus Street. Pastor Tim Webb. Sunday School 10am. Worship Service 11am. Sunday Evening 6pm. Wednesday Evening 6pm.

Wabash Free Will Baptist Church, 1056 Erie Street. Wednesday evening prayer meeting 6pm. Sunday School 10am, Church 11am; evening service 6pm.

CATHOLIC

St. Bernard Catholic Church, corner of Cass & Sinclair. Father Levi Nkwocha. Saturday Mass 5:30pm. Sunday Masses Summer - 8am and 10:30am. Winter - 8am & 11am. Tues. & Thurs. 9am; 8:15am during school year. Weekday Masses: Mon., Wed., Fri. 5:30pm; Tues. & Thurs., 9am. Sacrament of Reconciliation 4:15-5:15pm Saturday or by appointment (260) 563-4750.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Main Street in Lagro. Holy Mass 12:30pm the 1st Sunday of the month except January and February.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Christian Heritage Church, 2776 River Road. (260) 774-3016. Pastor Tim Prater. Sunday 8:30am. Radio Ministry 95.9 WKUJ. Sunday School 9:30am. Morning Service 10:30am. Sunday evening 6pm. Wednesday evening 6pm.

LaFontaine Christian Church, 202 Bruner Pike, LaFontaine. Minister Brad Wright. (765) 981-2101. Sunday School 9am, Worship 10:30am, Nursery & Jr. Church available.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church of Christ, Wabash (corner of N Wabash Street and US 24). Evangelist Josh Fennell (260) 563-8234. Sunday School 9am. Morning Worship 10am. Evening Worship 6:30pm. Wednesday Service 7pm. Wednesday Kid's Jam 7pm.

CHURCH OF GOD

First Church of God, 525 N. Miami Street. Pastor Robert Rensberger. (260) 563-5346. Sunday School at 9:15am, for all ages. Continental breakfast at 10am. Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:30am. Nursery care is available during worship service. Stair lift available.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Wabash Church of the Brethren, 645 Bond Street (off Falls Avenue). Interim, Pastor Doug Veal. (260) 563-5291. Wherever you are on life's journey, come join us as we continue the work of Jesus... Peacefully, Simply, Together. Sunday School 9:30am. Worship 10:30am. Children's church and nursery available during worship.

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Wabash Christian Church, 110 W Hill Street. Rev. Haley Asberry, Minister. (260) 563-4179. Worship 9:30am. Sunday School 11am. Nursery provided.

INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 4 miles north of Wabash on St. Rd. 15; phone 260-563-4109; website: bachelorcreek.com; Solomon David, Lead Minister; Michael Eaton, Worship Minister; Ken Goble, Senior Adults Minister; Taylor McSarland, Women's Director; David Diener, Student Minister; Tyler Leland, Children's Minister; Nate Tyler, Youth & Outreach Minister; Ryan Keim, Next Step Minister; Janet Legesse, Early Childhood Director. NOW OFFERING 2 SERVICE TIMES. Adult Bible Fellowship & Worship, 9:15am, 10:45am.

LUTHERAN

Living Faith Lutheran Church (NALC), 242 S Huntington St. Wabash IN. Pastor Tom Curry. Worship begins each Sunday morning at 10:10 am with Bible study classes for all ages at 9:00 am. Everyone is welcome to join us for worship and a time of fellowship after each service. Wednesday evenings include soup supper at 6:00 pm followed by an informal service at 7:00 pm. www.LivingFaithWabash.org

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), 1500 S Wabash Street. Pastor Dr. Kent Young. (260) 563-6626. We worship our Lord each Sunday at 9:30am with Gospel-based message and Holy Communion. There is a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following the service. We are handicap accessible and everyone is welcome at Trinity! tlcwabash@gmail.com.

Zion Lutheran Church LCMS, 173 Hale Drive. Reverend Gerald Gauthier II. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study at 9:15am. Morning Worship 10:30am. Communion 1st & 3rd Sunday of every month. Preaching and caring with Christ crucified for you! www.zionwabash.org

UNITED METHODIST

First United Methodist Church, 110 N Cass Street. Senior Pastor Nathan Whybrew, Pastor of Visitation Rev. John Cook. Director of Children's Ministry Angel Hostettler. (260) 563-3108. Sunday Schedule: 8 & 10am Worship Service. 9am Teen & Adult Sunday School & Children's faith learning. 10:15am Sunday School for Pre-School thru 5th Grade following Children's Message (except for 1st Sunday each month). Kids First Child Care: age 4 weeks thru 12 years 6am to 6pm weekdays. Carolyn Satterfield, Director. Wesley Academy Pre-School: age 3 through Pre-K. Susan Vanlandingham, Director. This Sunday is our Confirmation and Graduate Sunday. Our notice has been adapted to reflect that.

North Manchester United Methodist Church, 306 E Second Street, North Manchester. Pastor Mark Eastway. (260) 982-7537. Worship Service 8:15am & 10:30am. Coffee Fellowship 9am. Sunday School 9:30am.

Richvalley United Methodist Church, 290 N Jefferson. (260) 563-1033. Worship service begins at 9:30am. Nursery available. Sunday School begins at 10:45am for all ages.

Roann United Methodist Church, Corner of Adams and Arnold Street, Roann. Pastor Wayne Balmer. (765) 833-2931. Worship Celebration 9am. Sunday School 10:15am.



SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED



Photo Credit: Adam Demir

Some assembly required. Those words on the box can bring chills to the spine! It brings back memories of bicycles and dollhouses, toys to be “assembled” before they can join the gifts under the Christmas tree. Usually rushed, we often dislike following the directions - the result is disaster! The fact is, you can’t get around it - you have to read the instructions, interpret them, and assemble the object at hand one piece at a time. God has given us very clear instructions for a beautifully designed life. They are found in the Bible...and abundant interpretation is available. These instructions can also be found at your house of worship each week.

Daily Bible Reading

Isaiah 8:1-20	Isaiah 8:21-9:7	Isaiah 60:1-22	Isaiah 61:1-11	Isaiah 62:1-12	Isaiah 63:1-14	Luke 1:1-25
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society X Daily Devotional at DailyBible.AmericanBible.org
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White Sox agree to deal with Encarnación

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago White Sox have agreed to a \$12 million, one-year contract with veteran slugger Edwin Encarnación, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Wednesday night.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal has not been announced.

Encarnación is due \$11 million in salary next season and a \$1 million signing bonus, with the White Sox holding an option for the 2021 season. Encarnación hit 34 home runs in 109 games for Seattle and the Yankees last season. The three-time All-Star led the American League with 21 homers when the Mariners dealt him to New York in June. But the Yankees declined an option for next season after he was limited by oblique problems down the stretch. Encarnación batted .249 with 13 homers and 37 RBIs in 44 regular-season games with the Yankees. He hit .308 while New York pounded Minnesota in the AL Division Series, but slumped badly in the AL Championship Series against Houston.

QB Eason leaves Washington early, will enter NFL draft

SEATTLE (AP) — Washington quarterback Jacob Eason announced Thursday he will skip his final year of college and enter the NFL draft.

Eason started 13 games for Washington last season after beginning his college career at Georgia and transferring following his sophomore season. He threw for 3,132 yards and 23 touchdowns for the Huskies in a season where at times he looked like a sure first-round pick and at other times it appeared that another season of college would help his draft status. Eason's decision caps weeks of debate about his future. He chose to play in Washington's bowl game victory over Boise State rather than follow the path of NFL-bound teammates Hunter Bryant and Trey Adams, who skipped the game.

Submit your news

The Plain Dealer is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3:00 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be:

- E-mailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com.
- Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail.
- Mailed into Plain Dealer, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Organizations or individuals e-mailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The Plain Dealer reserves the right to edit material for length, clarity and/or style, and does not guarantee publication.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Title game rematch on deck in county basketball tourney



LAYUP: Wabash's Trenton Daughtry prepares to shoot a layup during the second half of last week's match-up against Northfield.

BY JACOB RUDE
sports@wabashplaindealer.com

With up-and-down starts from last season's title game, one that went down to the wire before the Apaches edged out Southwood for a 57-54 win. That result stopped the Knights from earning a third-straight County Tournament title while giving Wabash its first since 2005.

Wabash (3-2) vs. Southwood (2-3), 4:45 p.m.

The first boys' basketball game of the day will be a rematch of last season's title game, one that went down to the wire before the Apaches edged out Southwood for a 57-54 win. That result stopped the Knights from earning a third-straight County Tournament title while giving Wabash its first since 2005.

This time around, the two sides are largely the same with the exception of a few key pieces. Wabash is led in scoring this season by Trenton Daughtry at 17.4 points per game, the second-leading scorer in Wabash County so far this season. Only Southwood's Carson Rich is ahead of him at 17.6 points per game on the year.

For Wabash, Elijah Vander Velden is averaging 12.8 points and 8.8 rebounds per game while Jasper Walter adds 12.2 points per game. As a team, the Apaches average 62.2 points per game.

Southwood's Dawson Filip averages 11.4 points and 6.0 rebounds per contest. Jackson Simons and Gabe Lloyd are averaging 8.6 and 8.4 points per game, respectively.

The two sides have met in each of the last three championship games of the tournament, Southwood winning the previous two in blowout fashion.

Through the opening month of the season, Southwood is the top team in the conference in Sagarin rating at 64.03. Wabash is third with a rating of 62.37

Northfield (1-4) vs. Manchester (2-3), 8:15 p.m.

Interestingly, the last two championship games that did not feature Southwood against Wabash were contests between Manchester and Northfield. The Squires edged out the Norse in each meeting, the latter of which on a buzzer beater as time

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Oklahoma definite outsider in this College Football Playoff

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA — No team in the College Football Playoff has claimed more national titles than Oklahoma.

History, though, doesn't carry much weight in this year's field.

The Sooners are the clear outsider.

No. 1 LSU, No. 2 Ohio State and No. 3 Clemson have established themselves as the nation's best teams over the course of the long season. All three have 13-0 records. All three have sampled the top spot in either the CFP or Associated Press rankings.

Then there's fourth-ranked Oklahoma (12-1), which had to overcome a shocking loss to Kansas State and get a lot of help just to nab the last spot in the four-team field.

The Sooners are a whopping 13 1/2-point underdog heading into their Peach Bowl semifinal against LSU on Saturday, one of the widest betting lines in CFP history.

And, yes, that stings a bit.

"It's crazy, man, how they're dogging and looking over us like this," cornerback

Parnell Motley said Thursday. "It is so disrespectful, like we're not a national contender team."

That's certainly not the case.

Oklahoma is the school of Wilkinson and Switzer, of Sims and Selmon, of Mayfield and Murray — one of the most storied programs in college football history.

While the Sooners do have the longest national championship drought of the four teams — their last consensus title came during the 2000 season — they have finished No. 1 in the AP poll seven times, a tally topped only by Alabama (11) and Notre Dame (8).

In recent years, Oklahoma has maintained its place among the nation's elite programs. This will be the third straight year (and fourth time in the playoff's six-year history) the Sooners have earned an invitation.

Of course, they have yet to clear the next big hurdle: winning a semifinal.

In 2015, the Sooners were blown out by Clemson 37-17 in the Orange Bowl.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Simone Biles named 2019 AP Female Athlete of the Year

BY WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

They're called "Simone Things," a catchall phrase for the casual ease with which Simone Biles seems to soar through her sport and her life.

The irony, of course, is that there's nothing casual or easy about it. Any of it. The greatest gymnast of all time and 2019 Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year only makes it seem that way.

Those jaw-dropping routines that are rewriting her sport's code of points and redefining what can be done on the competition floor? Borne from a mix of natural talent, hard work and a splash of ego.

The 25 world championship medals, the most by any gymnast ever? The result of a promise the 22-year-old made to herself when she returned to competition in 2017 after taking time off following her golden run at the 2016 Olympics.

The stoicism and grace she has shown in becoming an advocate for survivors — herself included — and an agent for change in the wake of the Larry Nassar sexual abuse scandal that's shaken USA Gymnastics to its core? The byproduct of a conscious decision to embrace the immense clout

she carries.

"I realize now with the platform I have it will be powerful if I speak up and speak for what I believe in," Biles told The Associated Press. "It's an honor to speak for those that are less fortunate. So if I can be a voice for them in a positive manner, then of course I'm going to do whatever I can."

And it's that mission — combined with her otherworldly skill and boundless charisma — that's enabled Biles to keep gymnastics in the spotlight, a rarity for a sport that typically retreats into the background once the Olympic flame goes out. She is the first gymnast to be named AP Female Athlete of the Year twice and the first to do it in a non-Olympic year.

Biles edged U.S. women's soccer star Megan Rapinoe in a vote by AP member sports editors and AP beat writers. Skiing star Mikaela Schiffrin placed third, with WNBA MVP Elena Della Donne fourth. Biles captured the award in 2016 following a show-stopping performance at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, where she won five medals in all, four of them gold. She spent most of the following 12 months taking a break before returning to the gym in the fall of 2017,

saying she owed it to herself to mine the depth of her talent.

Check social media following one of her routines and you'll find people — from LeBron James to Michelle Obama to Chrissy Teigen — struggling to distill what they've witnessed into 280 characters or fewer, with whatever they settle on typically followed by multiple exclamation points and a goat emoji, a nod to Biles being considered the Greatest Of All Time.

Her triple-twisting double-flip (the "triple double") at the end of her first tumbling pass on floor exercise is a wondrous blur. Her double-twisting double-flip beam dismount (the "double double") is so tough the International Gymnastics Federation made the unusual decision to downplay its value in an effort to deter other gymnasts from even trying it.

This is both the blessing and the curse of making the nearly impossible look tantalizingly attainable. When Biles learned about the FIG's decision, she vented on Twitter, her palpable frustration highlighting the realness she's maintained even as her first name has become synonymous with

NFL

Amid hotshot passers, old men Brady and Brees roll on

BY BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

Between them, Tom Brady and Drew Brees have played 38 pro football seasons, 39 if you count 2008 when the New England star wrecked his knee in Week 1. Both probably should be long retired and counting the days until their induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Instead, they're still slinging away — and could be doing so against each other on Feb. 2 in a little thing called the Super Bowl.

No, 40-year-old quarterbacks should not still be setting NFL records. Yet Brees always seems to be doing so.

And certainly 42-year-old QBs don't even belong on the field. But Brady has the Patriots in position for — not that most of America wants to read this — a fourth straight trip to the Super Bowl, and his 10th overall, with six wins.

The influx of hotshot arms, from Patrick Mahomes to Lamar Jackson, from Carson Wentz to Deshaun Watson, has captured so much attention through the football galaxy. Still, it's the two 40-somethings who lord over the quarterbacking universe, possibly for their final seasons.

Adding spice to their continued presence center stage are the stats. Consider the career touchdowns passing mark that Peyton Manning held until Brees broke it in Game 14 for the Saints. He now has 544, beating Brady to the re-

cord in part because New Orleans has a more dangerous, dependable and varied attack than does New England these days. Brady is at 539.

While neither passer is a stats freak, they certainly are aware of the numbers they have compiled.

“Obviously, before the season you know you are a certain distance away, but then once the season starts, you just focus on winning games and doing what I need to do as a quarterback of this team to put us in the best position to succeed,” Brees says. “With that, I guess the statistics come, and maybe they add up, and then all of a sudden, you're close enough to be within striking distance of some of those things.”

With Michael Thomas running routes for him, Brees could always be closing in on unthinkable numbers. Thomas already has broken the single-season record for receptions with 145, and he caught 42 of those from Teddy Bridgewater while Brees was sidelined for five games with a thumb injury.

The presence of Thomas, running back Alvin Kamara, a solid offensive line and coach Sean Payton could be enticing enough for Brees to come back next year. Or he could walk away from the NFL with nothing to prove, particularly if the Saints can win a second NFL title since he ventured to the Big Easy in 2006. That's certainly doable: If New Orleans beats

weak Carolina on Sunday while Green Bay and San Francisco lose, the Saints will be the NFC's top seed. A simple victory over the Panthers earns a bye.

New Orleans could wind up in an odd position for 2020 at quarterback because Bridgewater will be a high-demand free agent. The Saints would love to hang on to the 27-year-old Bridgewater, who went 5-0 replacing Brees. But at what price if Brees is still around?

New England has similar questions to answer, and they will magnify after the playoffs. Brady has had an inconsistent season with little established talent around him. His only dependable veteran target is Julian Edelman, and the protection has been spotty at best. Unlike Brees, who still has the mobility to make plays outside the pocket, Brady is pretty much stationary.

He's also perhaps the greatest pocket passer ever. Surely, the fiery, often combative (on the field) Brady is the most accomplished quarterback with his six rings. To ever dismiss him is foolish, and the Patriots are 12-3, just like the Saints.

But there are more negative vibes around Brady than ever. His passer rating could wind up his lowest since 2003. His contract ends after this season. There have been rumblings he wants out of New England, whether by retirement or, if you can imagine, by

joining another club as a free agent.

Brees hasn't been drawing those kinds of headlines, of course. Then again, while he's been the face of the franchise in New Orleans, Brady for years has been the face of the NFL.

Brady notes that there really is not a status quo in sports — not even for a quarterback with nearly two full decades of play on his resume.

“Yeah, there's a lot of new pieces and you're always trying to incorporate from week to week,” Brady says. “And every year, it's a little bit different, the challenges are different. You just can't rely on, ‘Oh well, we'll just do exactly what we used to do,’ or, ‘We'll do exactly what we did last week.’ You have to kind of reinvent yourself every week. How the game plan takes shape and what guys are asked to do in order to execute takes shape.

“It's always a little bit of a challenge, but football season is not supposed to be easy. It's a hard grind for us. ... We're in the middle of it, we're deep into it and just got to have the mental toughness and the competitive stamina to keep showing up every day and working as hard as you can to be ready to compete when we're called upon.”

That's something Brady and Brees always have been able to do. Entering their 40s has had no effect. The same might be true when they are 50.

NFL

Misery in Ohio: Browns, Bengals end woeful seasons together

BY JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI — Yet another dismal season of professional football in Ohio concludes within the state's borders — a most appropriate finish for two franchise with more big questions down the road.

The Browns (6-9) and Bengals (1-14) get together at Paul Brown Stadium on Sunday in what will likely be a final “Battle of Ohio” for some of the main participants.

“I understand the possibility of it,” said Andy Dalton, finishing up his nine-year reign as the Bengals' franchise quarterback.

He's not alone on the cusp of change.

The Browns make the trek to the southern edge of the state with a head coach unsure whether he'll survive a first season that's been utterly disappointing. Cleveland was a chic Super Bowl pick after Baker Mayfield had an impressive rookie season and Odell Beckham Jr. joined the receiving group.

Mayfield regressed behind a struggling offensive line, and an injured Beckham made more news for his expensive watch than his touchdown catches. The team's 2-6 start sparked talk that Freddie Kitchens could be one-and-done.

Heading into the final game, he hadn't talked to ownership or the front office about his future.

“I have not gotten anything but total support from those guys,” Kitchens said. “They want me doing my job, and that is what I am trying to do on an everyday basis.”

And then there's the Bengals.

Oh, those Bengals.

Owner Mike Brown finally pulled the plug on coach Marvin Lewis after 16 seasons and hired Zac Taylor in a break from the team's past. The Bengals then plunged into a season that's been as bad as any in their 52-year history.

With only one win, Taylor's team will rank as one of their worst all time. The Bengals will pick first in the draft, giving them a chance to take Joe Burrow or another quarterback who will supplant Dalton.

For some, Paul Brown Stadium will be the end of the road.

DALTON'S FAREWELL

The second-round pick in 2011 took the Bengals to their best moments in the past three decades, leading them to the playoffs in each of his first five seasons. He set numerous club passing records but couldn't get them that elusive playoff win.

Dalton has one year left on his contract, so the Bengals could keep him to mentor a new quarterback through a rookie season. Or they could trade him to a team looking for an experienced quarterback.

Either way, it's his final game as the Bengals' fran-

chise quarterback.

“It's not the end of my career,” Dalton said. “Obviously a lot of our lives have been here in Cincinnati. And again, we don't know what's going to happen, I don't know what's going to happen. We're going to have to wait until after the season for all that to get handled.”

AND A.J., TOO?

A.J. Green came into the NFL along with Dalton in the 2011 draft, and he, too, has set numerous club marks. Green is a free agent after the season, leaving his future in Cincinnati uncertain as well.

If there's no agreement on an extension, the Bengals could use their franchise tag to keep him around for one more year to help a rookie quarterback get settled. But Green says he won't participate in offseason activities if that's the case, a way of forcing the club's hand.

CHUBB AND No. 32

Nick Chubb is closing in on the league's rushing title. He enters the season finale with 1,453 yards, the most by a Cleveland back since the legendary Jim Brown gained 1,863 in just 12 games in 1963. Chubb leads Carolina's Christian McCaffrey by 92 yards and has a chance to clinch the title against a Bengals defense that has struggled against the run.

“I care because everyone else cares,” said Chubb, who insists he's not focused on the title.

Linebacker Joe Schobert says it would mean a lot to Chubb's teammates for him to get it.

“Nick's a great guy,” Schobert said. “He's a great athlete, a great running back, and he's never going to talk for himself. He's never going to say anything for himself, but it's just a good sense of pride not just for the offense but for the whole team to see him do that because he deserves it.”

DECADE OF DESPAIR

The Browns will finish the 2010s without a winning season. They're the only team in the league that didn't win at least eight games once over the past 10 years.

Cleveland hasn't finished with a winning record since going 10-6 in 2007. Since then, the Browns have gone 4-12 and 5-11 three times, won seven games twice, and had a three-year stretch of 3-13, 1-15 and 0-16. Their streak of 17 seasons without a playoff appearance is the longest active one in the league.

DECADES OF DESPAIR

The Bengals wrap up their fourth straight losing season. They haven't won a playoff game since the 1990 season, the fifth-longest streak of postseason futility in the NFL's century-old history. During that 29-year span, they've had only seven winning seasons.

SOCCER

Racism arrests made at third-tier game in English soccer

PETERBOROUGH, England (AP) — Two fans of English third-tier club Doncaster were arrested on suspicion of racism during a match at Peterborough on Thursday.

Peterborough, which announced the arrests in the away end, said it was working with Doncaster and police on the incident.

Doncaster said it would issue a “substantial club ban” for anyone involved in racist conduct, and would require them to undergo “educational actions” before being allowed into games again.

“As a club we abhor racism in any form,” said Doncaster, which won the League One match 3-0.

The incident comes as Premier League club Tottenham continues to search for the perpetrators of racial abuse reported by Chelsea defender Antonio Ruediger in a game on Sunday. A Chelsea fan was arrested at the same game on suspicion of racially abusing Tottenham forward Son Heung-min.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Karma had a hand in top 5 sports moments of 2019

BY JIM LITKE

AP Sports Writer

Karma had a career year in 2019.

She draped a green jacket on Tiger Woods, handed soccer's World Cup to women's National Team, shipped the NBA's Larry O'Brien Trophy to a cool-as-they-come rookie coach and players from the Great White North, righted a wrong that happened a quarter-mile from the finish line at the Kentucky Derby, and turned a baseball tribute to a fallen teammate into something truly unforgettable.

So if sports didn't make you smile at least once in the last 12 months, well, that's probably on you. Here are the top five feel-good stories of 2019 (and one honorable mention):

■ Fourteen years after his last Masters win and 11 years after his last major, after fighting through chronic back problems, multiple surgeries, a bout with painkillers and long after just about everybody had written him off, Woods claimed his fifth green jacket in April.

“It's overwhelming, just because of what's transpired,” he said afterward. “It's unreal for me to experience this.”

His win was called the “greatest comeback in sports,” “the feel-good story of the century” and some pundits predicted that people would forever remember where they were when Woods walked off the 18th at Augusta National.

But it might not even have been the most karmic moment in golf in 2019.

(Honorable mention) At the Phoenix Open in late January, PGA Tour pro Gary Woodland helped Amy Bockerstette, a community college golfer with Down Syndrome, finish off one of the most heart-warming pars golf has ever seen. At the U.S. Open in June, he borrowed her mantra — “I've got this” — en route to the biggest win of his career.

Playing with Woodland in front of a big practice-day crowd at the famed 16th hole, Bockerstette sensed he was more nervous than she was. So before each shot, she put Woodland at ease with the words she repeats when tackling life's other challenges: “I've got this.”

Five months later, with Woodland leading the U.S. Open after three rounds, Bockerstette did it again. He'd held the 54-hole lead at a PGA Tour event seven times before and failed to seal the deal. Woodland said Bockerstette's tweet the night before the final round helped make a difference this time.

“Amy told me a million times when we were on that hole ... I've got this, I've got this,” Woodland recalled after his win at Pebble Beach. “And I told myself that a million times today, I've got this.”

■ The U.S. National Women's Team hardly needed reassuring. If anything, captain Megan Rapinoe and her teammates were deemed too brash as they gallivanted across France in pursuit of their third World Cup — and second in a row. Along the way, they sparred with President Trump over politics and highlighted a gender-discrimination lawsuit against their own federation in a fight for recognition and equal pay.

They scored 13 goals against lowly Thailand in a group-stage match and caught flak for celebrating too much. They responded by celebrating subsequent tallies with snarky golf claps and tea-time toasts, remaining ruthless until the final whistle in a 2-0 championship-game win over the Netherlands. That's what happens when you send women to do a job that the better-paid men's national team has never come close to completing.

“We've done exactly what we set out to do, done exactly what we wanted to do,

said what we feel,” said Rapinoe. “I know sometimes my voice is louder, but everybody is in this together.”

■ The Toronto Raptors, on the other hand, weren't marked for greatness until that moment in Game 7 of a playoff series against Philadelphia, when Kawhi Leonard's buzzer-beating, fadeaway jumper bounced four times on the rim before capping a 92-90 win.

“It looked like it was going in the whole time to me,” quipped Raptors rookie coach Nick Nurse afterward.

Lucky or not, the Raptors turned that break into a title. They outlasted Milwaukee in the Eastern Conference final and riding Leonard's masterful performances on both ends of the floor, ended the Golden State Warriors' dynastic dreams in six games.

Not long after the championship parade wound its way through Toronto, Leonard announced he was leaving town to join the Los Angeles Clippers. Undaunted, Nurse went back to work and has the Raptors back in contention. Over more than three decades, he'd coached in Great Britain, at G-League stops in Des Moines, Iowa, and Edinburg, Texas, and starting over was nothing new.

“He looks young,” Raptors guard Kyle Lowery said, “but he's pretty old.”

■ A drenching early May rainstorm turned the Churchill Downs track sloppy even before the start of the 145th Kentucky Derby. But the real mess materialized at the end, when Maximum Security, the first horse across the finish line, also became the first winner disqualified for an in-race foul.

Track stewards pored over replays for 22 agonizing minutes before awarding the win to Country House, ruling that Maximum Security had drifted into the path of War of Will, setting off a dustup that affected at least two other horses. That decision turned

Woman ambushed by revelation of husband's long-term affair

DEAR ABBY: I recently found out my husband has been having a four-year affair with a woman 24 years younger than I am. He met her at work. He tells me he loves her, but he loves me more. Abby, they actually thought I would agree to him taking her on as a second wife, but, of course, I refused. They no longer see each other, but communicate regularly by text. He misses her, she misses him, and I am deeply hurt, since nothing will ever be the same.

I am also devastated because of my husband's four years of lies and deception. I didn't suspect a thing and always loved him deeply. Can I get over this? – Hurtling In Washington

DEAR HURTING: If you are going to get past this – notice I did not say “get over” – it will take both cooperation from your husband and the services of a licensed marriage and family therapist.

You were lied to and betrayed, and it wasn't a one-time mistake. That he and his paramour remain in touch indicates that while the physical affair may be over, their emotional affair is ongoing. For your marriage to be repaired and trust rebuilt, that too must end.

DEAR ABBY: My son-in-law is lazy and arrogant. My daughter seems to think he walks on water. He has answers and excuses for everything. I'm realizing that he may never amount to anything, because he has no ambition. They recently had a baby, and he does very little to help. Washing and sterilizing bottles leaves him “exhausted.”

I treasure my relationship with my daughter and grandson and want them all to want to come over and be close. I am trying to keep my mouth shut, but my daughter knows how I feel. How do I navigate this challenge of having to bite my lip when I see him lying around with a sink full of dishes? What am I allowed to say without alienating him? – Exasperated Mom In Canada

DEAR MOM: If you are wise, you will keep your thoroughly chewed lip zipped. Your daughter knows how you feel, so resist that urge to harp on it. When she reaches her limit, I'm sure she will come up with some choice phrases to blast her husband off the sofa. Remember, this is her problem, not yours, so let her handle it.

DEAR ABBY: We are part of a group of four couples who arrange to get together for dinners. One of the couples continually invites another couple at the last minute without checking with the rest of us.

We are hosting a dinner and planned it around the eight of us, only to find out this couple has invited another couple – again! I explained to the woman that I don't think it's nice to invite additional people without first checking with the hosts, certainly not at 10 o'clock the night before, but they don't want to leave the fifth couple out. This is the third time this has happened, and others have spoken to her about it to no avail. Please help! – Uninvited In Delaware

DEAR UNINVITED: What the woman is doing is beyond inconsiderate. The “way to handle it” would be to discuss it with the other group members and agree to disinvite this couple from your group. Three strikes and they're out.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Dear Abby



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Watch chain
- 4 UK network
- 7 Col. Sanders' place
- 10 Mont. neighbor
- 11 Bring up a child
- 13 Burr-Hamilton contest
- 14 Zilch
- 15 Gluck of opera
- 16 Novelist — Ferber
- 17 Spock's lack
- 19 Physique
- 20 Compass pt.
- 21 Windshield material
- 23 Composer —
- 26 Vestibule
- 28 Not worth a —
- 29 Blond shade
- 30 Use the rink

34 Virtuous

- 36 Execs
- 38 Was victorious
- 39 Hair tint
- 41 Telescope part
- 42 Egg part
- 44 Be billed
- 46 Remarks
- 47 Tries too hard
- 51 Hookah
- 52 Luggage
- 53 Flock member
- 55 Roman greetings
- 56 Salon sound
- 57 Small fry
- 58 Sz. option
- 59 Interstate sign
- 60 CIA operative

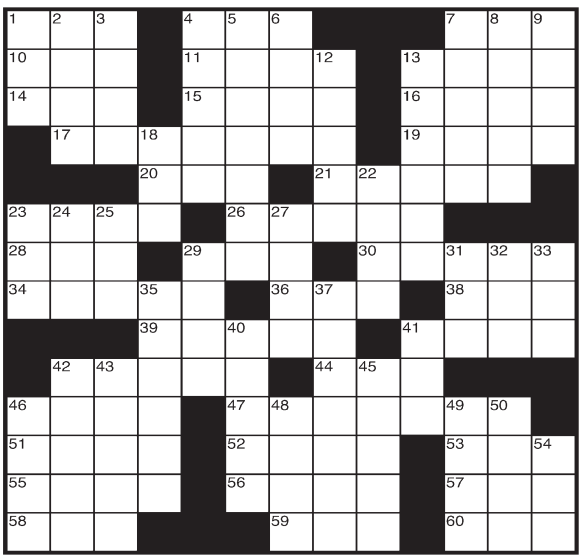
DOWN

- 1 Shark part
- 2 Fat cat's friend
- 3 Salve
- 4 Unruly kids
- 5 Convictions
- 6 Army wear

Answer to Previous Puzzle



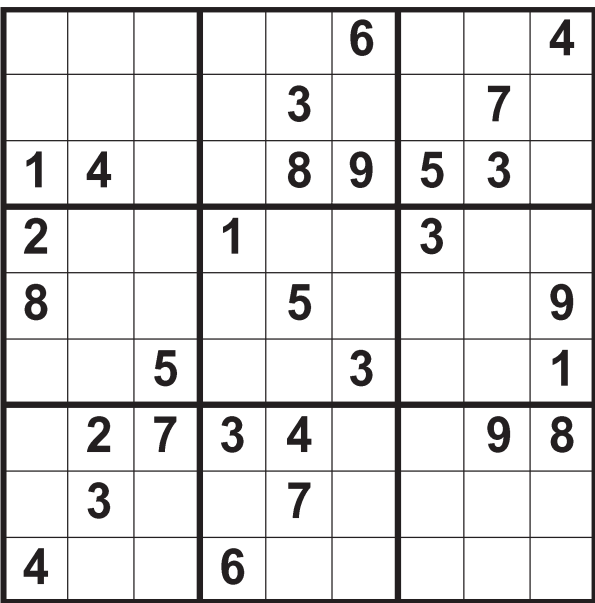
- 7 Accolades
- 8 Wards (off)
- 9 Soil component
- 12 Tall and lanky
- 13 Go ashore
- 18 Donne's “done”
- 22 For fear that
- 23 Dogma
- 24 Slime
- 25 Not their
- 27 Resistance units
- 29 Got off
- 31 Astonish
- 32 Freight unit
- 33 Printer's measures
- 35 Greet a new day
- 37 The Peach State
- 40 Cozy dwellings
- 41 Garland
- 42 Dispense with
- 43 Over-praised
- 45 Stingy insects
- 46 Email nuisance
- 48 Astronaut's ade
- 49 Party fabrics
- 50 Trade
- 54 Ben & Jerry rival



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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How to play:

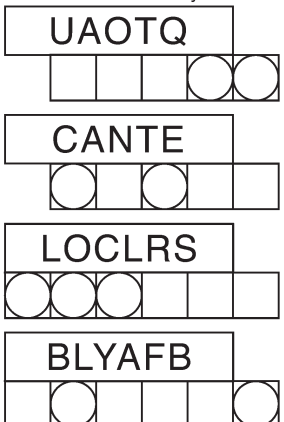
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

1	7	5	4	9	3	8	2	6
8	2	4	5	7	6	9	3	1
3	6	9	1	2	8	5	7	4
5	3	8	6	1	4	2	9	7
7	9	6	8	3	2	1	4	5
2	4	1	7	5	9	6	8	3
4	5	3	2	8	1	7	6	9
6	8	7	9	4	5	3	1	2
9	1	2	3	6	7	4	5	8

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



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Answer here:

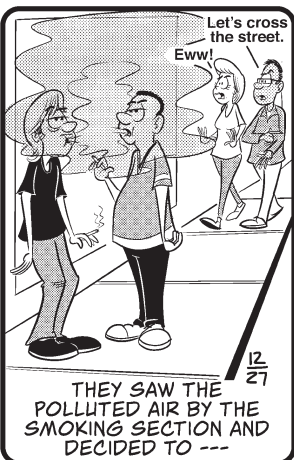


Yesterday's Jumbles: IMPEL PRAWN VERBAL DENOTE

Answer: The horse that won lots of money for his owners was a thorough — “BRED” WINNER

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

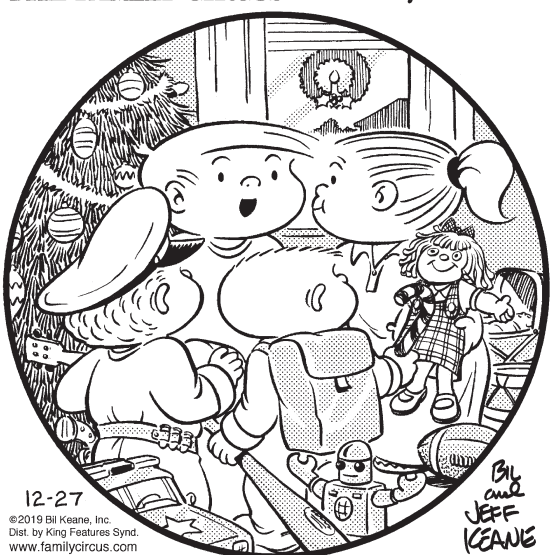


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



“Don't you wish this Christmas came with a sequel?”

BEETLE BAILEY



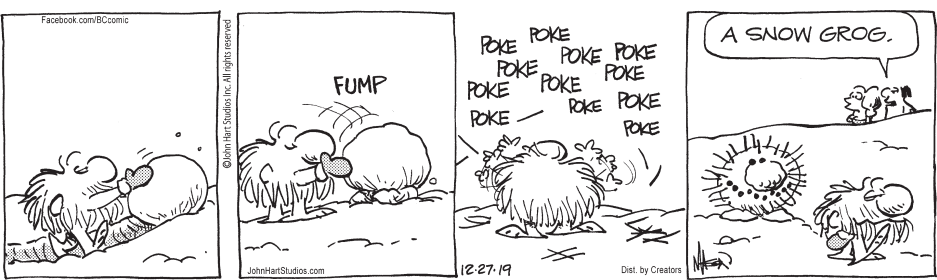
BLONDIE



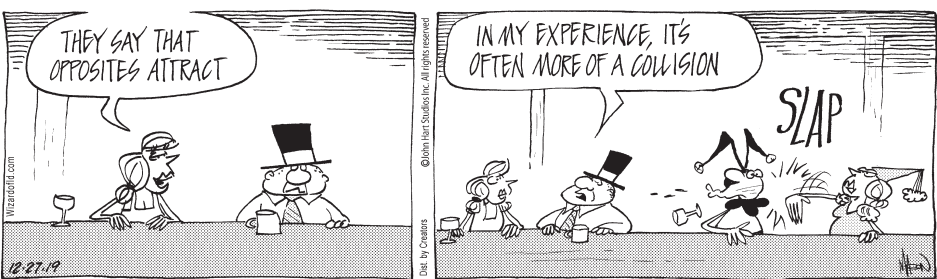
HI & LOIS



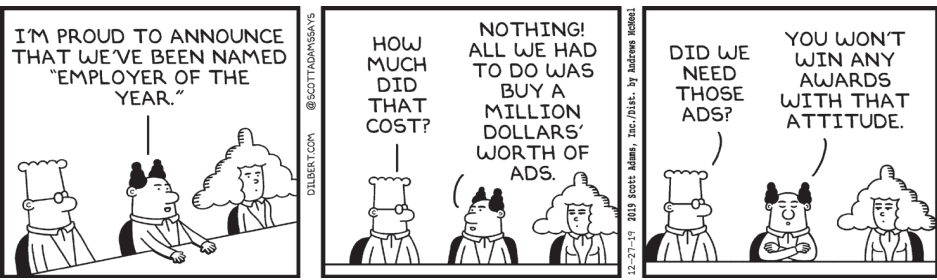
BC



WIZARD OF ID



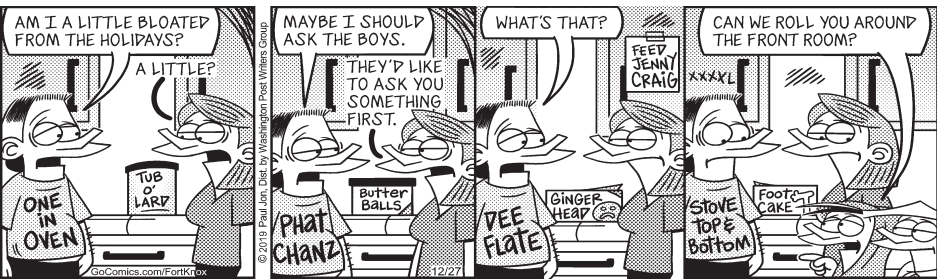
DILBERT



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



The Christian life is a process of learning and growing

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: Will I ever feel that I have arrived at what God wants me to be? – L.H.

A: Like the marathon runner, we are in the journey of life for the long haul and it lasts as long as God gives us breath. We aren't meant to wander off the track, or quit and join the spectators, or decide we'll just slow down and take it easy while others pass us by. The Christian life is a process of learning and growing and this is accomplished through the study of God's Word, obedience to it and a life of prayer that brings us into fellowship with Him. It is He who brings us to completion.

Our example is Jesus, “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,

who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2-3). There, He works on our behalf and prays for us. What a marvelous picture this is for believers. Jesus completed the journey God had prepared for Him, even at the cost of His own blood. This truth is our power to endure, when we feel like collapsing from exhaustion or drained by busyness. This happens when we run unwisely or depend only

on our own resources. We may get by with it for a time, but eventually it will catch up with us. In ourselves we are too weak.

God didn't intend for us to travel our journey in our own strength anyway, but only with the strength He supplies. This was what Paul meant when he declared, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). God is far more concerned about our spiritual journey, and He is there to supply all our needs.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“SFVVCV ONDPFA CV PH LF IHZKDU
NDA JHBKZKDU. K AHD'P GDHO
OENP WNGFV TFHTIF VH YBCFI.”
— FIPHD SHED

Previous Solution: “There's nothing written in the Bible ... that says, ‘If you believe in Me, you ain't going to have no troubles.’” — Ray Charles

TODAY'S CLUE: X is a b n b e g

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Marion Fire Department will be accepting applications for the position of Firefighter starting 11/27/19 and ending 1/16/20. Applications, minimum requirements and job description can be obtained at Fire HQ, 301 S. Branson St. 3rd floor, Marion Monday through Friday 8 AM - 4 PM. Applications must be returned by 1/16/20 4:00PM. (765) 668-4474

Wabash Fire Department Hiring Civilian EMT/Paramedic

The Wabash Fire Department will be accepting applications for part-time civilian EMT, and Paramedic.

Starting Pay-EMT \$16/hr
Paramedic \$20/hr

General Help

Shifts will be daily from 0800 - 2000 excluding holidays.

Positions are part-time only. EMS experience is preferred, but not required.

Applications can be obtained at Wabash City Hall. Application deadline is December 30, 2019. To be considered for appointment, applicants must: Have a valid high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED). Possess a current, valid driver's license at time of appointment. Be an EMT certified to practice in the State of Indiana. Pass a background check. Possess high moral character and commitment to service.

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The following deadlines for placing a Classified Liner is as follows:
To publish on Thur. Dec. 26th, 2019 the deadline is 10am on Mon. Dec. 23rd, 2019.
To publish on Tue. Dec. 24th, 2019 the deadline is 11am Fri. Dec. 20th, 2019.
To publish on Thursday Jan. 2nd, 2019 the deadline is 11am on Mon. Dec. 30th, 2019.

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2 BR 605 W 3rd St \$130/wk; basic utilities included

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3 BR 1305 S Boots St; \$550/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 1723 W 4th St \$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 1625 W Euclid Ave; \$600/mo tenant pays all utilities

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HSPAXLP 12/27/2019


Legals

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF WABASH
SS: IN THE WABASH CIRCUIT COURT 2019
TERM CAUSE NO. 85C01-1911-EU-000084
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED
ESTATE OF MARY ALICE CAUGHELL, DE-
CEASED NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED AD-
MINISTRATION In the Circuit Court of Wa-
bash, Wabash County, Indiana. Notice is
hereby given that Gregory L. Caughell and
Douglas B. Caughell were on the 27th day of
November, 2019, appointed Personal Repres-
entatives of the Estate of Mary Alice Caughell,
deceased, who died on the 10thday ofNovem-
ber, 2019, leaving a Last Will and Testament.
The Personal Representatives are authorized
to administer said estate without court supervi-
sion. All persons who have claims against this
estate, whether or not now due, must file the
claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court
within three (3) months from the date of the
first publication of this notice, or within nine (9)
months after the Decedent's death, whichever
is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Wabash
Dated at Huntington, Indiana, this day 17th of
December, 2019.
Stanley H. Matheny, Attorney ID#9076-35 Of
Counsel to the law firm of MATHENY, HAHN,
& DENMAN LLP
220 North Jefferson Street, PO Box 191 Hunt-
ington IN 46750
Telephone No. (260) 356-7030
Fax: (260) 356-7033
Attorney for Personal Representatives
HSPAXLP 12/27/,1/3/2020

Legals

Sheriff Sale File Number: 85-20-0001-SS Date
& Time of Sale: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at
10:00 am Wabash County Newspaper: Wa-
bash Plain Dealer Sale Location: Wabash
County Sheriff's Department Basement Miami
St Entrance, 79 W Main Street Judgment to be
Satisfied: \$82,514.41 Cause No: 85C01-1907-
MF-000627 Plaintiff: Branch Banking and Trust
Company Defendant: Jeffrey A. Hults a/k/a Jeff
A. Hults TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN
DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL IN-
TERESTED PARTIES By virtue of a certified
copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk
of Superior/Circuit Court of Wabash County,
Indiana, requiring me to make the sum as
provided for in said Decree with interest and
cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest
bidder, at the hour of 10:00 AM of said day as
listed above, at the Wabash County Sheriff's
Department, 79 W Main St, Wabash IN, fee
simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wa-
bash County, Indiana: The following described
real estate located in Wabash County, Indiana
Part of the Northeast Quarter of Section Num-
ber Six (6), in Township Number Twenty-six
(26) North, Range Number Seven (7) East,
bounded and described as follows, to-wit Be-
ginning at a point on the west line of said
quarter section, eight hundred twenty-two and
twenty-five hundredths (822.25) feet south of
the northwest corner thereof, thence East par-
allel with the north line of said quarter, two
hundred seventy-two and twenty-five hun-
dredths (272.25) feet, thence south parallel
with the west line of said quarter, two hundred
(200) feet, thence west parallel with the north
line of said quarter, two hundred seventy-two
and twenty-five hundredths (272.25) feet to the
west line thereof, thence north on said west
line two hundred (200) feet to the place of be-
ginning. Containing one and one-fourth (1.25)
acres, more or less. ALSO Part of the North-
east Quarter of Section Number Six (6), in
Township Number Twenty-six (26) North,
Range Number Seven (7) East, bounded and
described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a
point in the west line of said quarter, one thou-
sand twenty-two and twenty-five hundredths
(1022.25) feet South from the Northwest
corner thereof, thence North eighty-nine (89)
degrees fifty-eight (58) minutes East parallel
with the north line of said quarter two hundred
seventy-two and twenty-five hundredths
(272.25) feet, thence North two hundred (200)
feet, thence South seventy-nine (79) degrees
eighteen (18) minutes East two hundred sev-
enty-one and fifty-seven hundredths (271.57)
feet, thence South one (1) degree twenty-four (24)
minutes West two hundred twenty-one and
thirteen hundredths (221 13) feet, thence
South twenty (20) degrees thirty-seven (37)
minutes one hundred seventy- four and twenty
hundredths (174.20) feet, thence South twenty-
six (26) degrees thirty-four (34) minutes West,
eighteen and ninety-four hundredths (18 94)
feet, thence South eighty-nine (89) degrees
fifty-eight (58) minutes West four hundred sixty
(460) feet to a point in the west line of said
quarter, thence North two hundred fifty (250)
feet to the place of beginning Containing three
and seven hundred eighty-two thousandths
(3.782) acres, more or less. Together with
rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said
sale will be made without relief from valuation
or appraisalment laws. This Notice shall also
represent service of Notice of Sale of the
above-described real estate upon the owners,
pursuant to requirements of IC 32-29-7-3.
Ryan Baker, Sheriff of Wabash County
Township of property location: Liberty
Common street address of property: 6191 S 50
E, Wabash, IN 46992
Property tax ID: 85-19-06-200-005.000-005
and 85-19-06-200-004.000-005
Law Firm: DOYLE & FOUTTY, P.C.
Contact Number: (317) 264-5000
The sheriff's office does not warrant the accur-
acy of the commonly known street address. It
is the buyer's responsibility to research the leg-
al description and associated legal filings.
PLEASE SERVE:
Jeffrey A. Hults a/k/a Jeff A. Hults
6191 S 50 E
Wabash, IN 46992
MANNER OF SERVICE: Sheriff
DOYLE & FOUTTY, P.C. IS A DEBT COL-
LECTOR HSPAXLP 12/27,1/3,1/10/2020

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